

Amy Lacy

From: mark.zelonis@att.net
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 3:26 PM
To: Amy Lacy
Subject: Monday's Town Council Meeting

Hello Amy,
Would you kindly share my letter posted below with members of the Town Council? Thanks so much,
Mark

Dear members of the Zionsville Town Council,

I wish to express my thanks for your developing and presenting the proposed Historic Preservation Ordinance for our special town. My wife, Sally, and I moved here 25 years ago and chose Zionsville mainly for the charm the Village exudes. We've enjoyed restoring our historic home from the 1880's and sharing it on several occasions for house and garden tours.

But like so many of our friends and neighbors who moved here, we were surprised at the lack of protection available to safeguard these wonderful and attractive buildings. During our quarter century here, we have witnessed several older residences needlessly demolished, only to be replaced by empty lots or structures that are truly out of character with their neighbors. We do worry that without simple proper oversight, Zionsville will lose even more of its historic character that makes it a special place to visit, shop, and yes, live.

Though there are some who would say their property rights will be infringed upon through this proposed ordinance, I would ask them to consider the rights of their neighbors and the community at large should a home be built totally out of character and scale with other homes nearby. I urge you to consider everyone who has chosen to live here. The Conservation District, as proposed earlier for the Village by the Zionsville Historic Preservation Committee (on which I serve), is quite modest by comparison to a full-fledged historic preservation district as many towns have. It would simply review any proposed demolitions of existing residences, moving of an existing structure, and the design of a new structure. And this would **only** be for those structures deemed to be "historic" by the new architectural survey now being completed. And contrary to what you may have heard from opponents to the Ordinance, any review would not deal with paint colors, siding materials, window types, landscaping, fences, and the like.

I urge you to support the creation of a town-wide Conservation Commission. Such a group, properly staffed by qualified professionals and preservation-minded residents which the Mayor and you will choose, would begin a process to sustain and maintain the charm and architectural integrity we have all come here to enjoy.

Again, thanks for your careful consideration of this very important matter. Future generations of homeowners will be very grateful.

Sincerely,

Mark Zelonis
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